





## Intimations.

GARDEN SEEDS.

SEASON 1882-3.

**A. S. WATSON & CO.**  
H AVE LATELY RECEIVED  
AND  
O P E N E D  
O U T  
T H E I R N E W S E A S O N ' S  
S U P P L Y O F  
V E G E T A B L E A N D F L O W E R S E E D S.

CATALOGUES SUPPLIED ON APPLICATION.

V E G E T A B L E P A R C E L O F 50 P A C K E T S.  
P R I C E ..... \$7.50.  
F L O W E R P A R C E L, P R I C E ..... \$10.00.  
F L O W E R P A R C E L H A L F S I Z E, P R I C E ..... \$5.00.

SINGLE PACKETS AT PRICES  
AS PER LIST.

**A. S. WATSON & Co.,**  
HONGKONG DISPENSARY,  
HONGKONG. [43]

## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, Hongkong Telegraph" and not to the Editor.

Letters on Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor" and not to individual members of the staff.

Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writers, not necessarily for publication; but as evidence of good faith.

Whilst the columns of the Hongkong Telegraph will always be open for the fair discussion by correspondents of all questions affecting public interests, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for opinions thus expressed.

## TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers are requested to forward all notices intended for insertion in this day's issue not later than THREE O'CLOCK so as not to retard the early publication of the paper.

## TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Arrangements have been made to publish The Hongkong Telegraph daily at 4 P.M. Subscribers in the central districts who do not receive their copies before FIVE O'CLOCK will oblige by at once communicating with the Manager.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1882.

THERE appears to exist in this Colony an extraordinary and exaggerated notion of the existence of some sort of fictitious privilege which is supposed to hedge in our public servants, and render their acts safe from criticism. It is high time this antiquated absurdity were exploded. Civil, or government servants, as they prefer to be designated, are simply servants of the public. They are paid by the public, and their obligations to their employers, and the manner in which these obligations are performed are in every sense public property. There is not the slightest occasion for being in the least mealy-mouthed in criticising the performance of public functions by our own servants, so long as the criticisms are fair and impartial. This applies to all branches of the government service, from the humblest office messenger to the chiefs of departments; from the police constable to the Chief Justice himself. The public support the government; they pay for the maintenance of law and order, and they are entitled to market value for their money. They have an undoubted claim to receive from government employees of every grade, respect, courtesy, and all legitimate information on public affairs, not as a favor, but as a right.

We have been led into these general observations by an opinion which has been offered us to the effect that our criticisms of Mr. WONGHOUSE's performances on the stage of the Police Court in the difficult rôle of judge or magistrate, which appeared in the Telegraph of the 22nd inst., were, although probably justified by facts, unjustified when applied to a government official holding such a high position as the gentleman above named. Now this opinion is what is vulgarly but expressively designated "bosh." A police magistrate is just as much within the pale of independent public criticism as the lowest servant in his court. He possesses as a magistrate no privileges of any description which exempt him from performing his duties efficiently and satisfactorily. He has no greater claims to consideration in regard to the obligations he owes to the community, and for which he is adequately remunerated, than has the employé of any private firm who does a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. It is no part of our form of government to place a premium on inefficiency in any branch of the service. It must be clearly understood that a government official, who is unfitted for whatever position he may

occupy, has no claim or privilege of any kind to be considered a permanent fixture in the public service. If a private employer discovers one of his clerks, or other employes, to be imperfectly acquainted with his duties, in his own interests he gets rid of what in a business house must be a useless incumbrance without delay. And the responsibilities of a government, which represents the interests of the public, are identically the same in regard to inefficient civil servants. These observations are of course to be understood as having a general, not a personal application. We are not hitting at any individual, but merely upholding a principle, which is neither so widely recognised nor so generally appreciated as it ought to be.

The rights of this, and every other British Colony are the rights of the community, not the personal and private interests of individuals. The humblest citizen in Hongkong, who is a subject of Great Britain, has just as good a claim to discuss everything connected with the Colony as the most influential of our leading residents. Our form of government is unfortunately of an autocratic character, which, by its constitution, cannot fail to retard progress; and it is undoubtedly a matter to be greatly deplored that so much valuable time should be wasted, and such a great deal of public money uselessly sacrificed at the shrine of red tape. As we, however, live in an age of progress, the day may not be far distant when politicians at home will be able to spare the time, and see their way to effect radical reforms in the present cumbrous and unsatisfactory system of colonial government. But we are unwittingly digressing from our original theme, and trespassing on a subject which demands a much fuller investigation than we are in a position to award to it without careful study and anxious deliberation. Our present aim is merely to remove the stupid idea which appears to prevail in some circles as to the duties of the press with regard to government servants. A newspaper which permits itself to sacrifice its independence, and to neglect the obligations it owes to its readers, and the public generally, is unworthy of the name. Our references the other day respecting Mr. WONGHOUSE the magistrate—not Mr. WONGHOUSE the individual—may probably have given offence, but for that we are not responsible. We considered that the magistrate had failed in his duties—duties for which he is paid to perform efficiently—and we had no alternative but to plainly express our views on the subject. And we shall continue to do so, not only with reference to Mr. WONGHOUSE, but to every officer of the Government who has public duties to perform, and whose performance of those duties is not satisfactory. That is our duty and our privilege, and we mean to maintain them at all cost, fairly, honestly, and independently.

We have at times heard opinions expressed that our criticisms of government affairs, although fair and reasonable enough, and justified by facts, are occasionally couched in too plain and forcible language. We call a spade by its right name, and that is considered an offence by the advocates and adherents of Hongkong nambly pamblyism. Our mutual admiration enthusiasts have been so long accustomed to the milk and water inanities of the *Maui* and *Fish Wrapper* that they appear quite unable to comprehend the meaning, as well as the true principles of criticism, which at the same time is fearless, independent and impartial. Hongkong governments have been exceptionally lucky in their critics. It has paid the local press to *know* and *cringe*, and make themselves door mats to our governors and administrators almost from the beginning, and the old charter is still an article of faith. Governor HENNESSY was vilely abused it is true; but then the abuse, in this instance, was inspired, and proved quite a remunerative investment. But this style of independence of the public press is happily confined to the morning and evening journals of Hongkong. Other colonial governments are treated to an amount of free criticism in language which is remarkable for its vigorous plainness, and we do not doubt that it does them good. We have before us a specimen of a criticism lately written by a leading Sydney newspaper on the government of New South Wales. As its perusal cannot fail to prove instructive to our local "buttermen" we reprint it for their especial benefit. Says our Sydney contemporary:—"How long are a set of pumpkin-headed official idiots to retard the progress of this Colony? Any one who looks at an American newspaper, even the smallest daily, sees at a glance the vast extent of its telegraphic enterprise. The day after the last opening of the Imperial Parliament the N.Y. Herald had a cable report far exceeding in length the report published the same day by the London Times—equal, in fact, to the whole of the telegraphic matter from all sources, printed

in that day's issue of the "British Thunderer." In Australia the Press has to struggle against a fish-blooded, marrow-freezing officialism. Not long ago our Postmaster-General deliberately tried to increase Press rates for telegraphy, and at the same time to diminish Press opportunities. The Victorian Government has refused to allow DAVID SYME, the enterprising proprietor of the *Age*, to erect at his own expense a telegraphic line between his office and Sydney and Adelaide; and our Government, we now hear, has declined to sanction the laying of a special wire between the Sydney *Morning Herald* and *Argus* offices—which are connected telegraphically, but not by a special line. Were an extra wire put up there would be practically no limit to its use; but at present the amount of matter sent through is necessarily restricted. The paltry narrow-mindedness of the Telegraphic Departments in this matter, forms a heavy indictment against the Government. New Zealand is half a century ahead of us telegraphically. A telephone line 100 miles long is in operation between Christchurch and Timaru. The wire cost \$1,500. Conversation is carried on with great ease, and during the grain season a great saving of time results. It is the property of a private firm (Messrs. CUNNINGHAM & Co.). The extension of the line to Oamaru is contemplated. Here, a grab-all, dog-in-the-manger Government will neither push the telegraphic and telephonic systems nor allow the public to do so. We venture to think that the Government of Hongkong would be none the worse if a great many of its crying abuses were handled in the above style. But then such a straight-from-the-shoulder system of fighting would be considered quite too utterly awful by the heaven-born geniuses who are supposed to guide the fortunes of the Colony, and who are said to affect horror at the idea of their conduct being placed under the lash of criticism. However, at the risk of rubbing against old fashioned prejudices, we have no intention of limiting our contemporaries by a policy of masterly inactivity. All public grievances will find ready publicity in these columns; whether against the government or anybody else is a matter of sublime indifference, so long as we are fighting for public rights.

## T E L E G R A M S.

LONDON, 28th September.  
AFFAIRS IN EGYPT.  
Several regiments in Egypt are under orders to embark. General Wolsley considers 10,000 men sufficient to maintain order.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

LUI AHING, a member of the unemployed persuasion, for stealing clothing valued at 90 cents, was this morning sent to six weeks' hard labor by Captain Thomsett.

We received the following Manila telegram from the Harbour Master's department last night:—"A typhoon is coming from the S.E. of Luzon. It is travelling slowly. If it is possible to ascertain its direction will notify."

We hear that Mr. Kwan Chak Lam, late assistant Usher and process server at the Police Court, has been promoted to the post of Chinese clerk and shroff at the Supreme Court. Mr. Kwan Chak Lam's emolument in his new situation is \$48 per mensem, and he is required to find security in the sum of \$5,000, and two sureties of \$2,500 each.

PRIZE "daws" appear to be looking up. The prize obtained at a London show for the prize bulldog Lord Nelson, who had won every cup for which he ever competed, was \$50,000. His aspect is described as that of the "most unprincipled ruffian that ever ran on four legs to help his master in the attack on a helpless traveller on a starlight night." His coat is milk-white, his eyes red and bloodshot, his chops fall down each side of his jaw, and when he raises his lips and shows his teeth, the spectators draw back in terror.

AN incident which caused some considerable excitement amongst the Chinese, took place on the 27th instant. A native lady who has been married for a period of ten years without fulfilling woman's mission by adding to the population, on the above date gave birth to two sons and a daughter. Triplets are rare events amongst the Chinese, so the mother and children have become objects of interest, many sight-seers having called, and we are pleased to state, not empty-handed. We are glad to say that the interesting family are doing well.

As predicted in our yesterday's issue, Doctor Brown again appeared before the "bench" this morning. The doctor was discharged yesterday after paying the fine of five dollars, and apparently got mixed up with the "fire water" without loss of time. At 7.30 p.m. Veer Singh, P.C. 564 "spotted" the irrepressible one in a wheelbarrow, in a quibsy condition. He was having a row with the licensed obstructionist over the matter of fare; and wound up by slugging the Celestial, which violent proceedings caused his arrest. Brown admitted the charge and said he had been promised a passage to Swatow to-day. Captain Thomsett took a charitable, sensible, and lenient view of the case, and discharged the doctor on the condition that he left the Colony to-day.

We hear that the French steamer *Nam Vian*, Captain Garceau, which left here on Saturday last for Hoihow, lost her propeller while going up the Halphong river, about one mile from Halphong, and is at present stuck there waiting for assistance to arrive.

HO AIN, a jinnicksha coolie, charged before Captain Thomsett with stealing a box valued at \$2, said another man told him to take the box, and he did so. One month's hard labor in Haywards Hotel will reward the street obstructionist for his too ready obedience to the commands of the "other man" with whom he had no previous acquaintance.

We observed that the four ingenious gentlemen who proposed to make themselves rich by the simple process of selling comparatively worthless wine in bottles bearing the most esteemed brands and labels, have been convicted in London of conspiring to defraud, and sentenced, the leading spirit to eighteen months', and the others to nine months', with hard labour.

THE beautiful spectacle now presented by the comet in the eastern sky before sunrise, should surely be tempting enough to induce even the greatest sluggard among us to take advantage of the present clear weather, and leave his bed, if only for once, to have a look at it. Situated but a few degrees south of the equator, it rises nearly in the east about an hour and a half before the sun, and remains visible for an hour or more. Five o'clock or a little earlier is a good time for seeing it. The nucleus and coma together form a bright object, about as large to the eye as Jupiter, though not so bright. The tail, which is about seven or eight degrees in length, stretches obliquely upward in the direction of Orion's Belt; it is of great symmetry, brightness and beauty, and very slightly curved, and has the dark furrow or line down the centre that is usually seen in bright comets. The comet is receding from the sun. As observed from the *Oceanic* by Captain Metcalfe, the distance of its head from Sirius was 63 deg. 21 min. on the morning of the 26th, 62 deg. 32 min. on the 27th, and 61 deg. 49 min. yesterday morning. It is probably a stranger to the solar system, and will doubtless continue for some time a fine spectacle in the early morning sky.

In answer to several inquiries as to the value of rowing, riding, walking, tricycling, boxing, cricket, etc., as healthful exercises, *Knowledge* says: "It will probably sound paradoxical, after the stress we have laid on the necessity for exercise, to say that we consider each one of these exercises, as pursued by specialists, undeniably bad for the development of a well proportioned and thoroughly healthy frame. Take, for instance, any first-class eleven at cricket; select, if you please, an eleven such as the Australian, in which all-round aptitude is a characteristic feature, and you will invariably find so large a proportion of ill-shaped men as to show that thoroughly well-built cricketers owe their goodly proportions to exercises outside cricket. Despite the running involved in the game, four cricketers out of five have badly developed chests. One would say a good bat should have good shoulders, but that batting does not tend to improve the shoulders is shown by two, at least, of the finest Australian bats. Take rowing, again. Unless a rowing man does other work especially intended to correct the defect, he has invariably poor arms above the elbow, a marked inferiority in the development of the chest as compared with the back, and he generally has round shoulders and a forward hang of the head and neck. Boxing is better, but it cannot be pursued with advantage as the chief exercise a man or boys takes, and it is entirely unsuited to girls and women.

It is difficult, says the *Overland Mail*, to understand the "why and wherefore" of M. de Lesseps' recent words and actions. In what way does he suppose that France can gain by incurring the animosity of England? Not that the irresponsible sayings of any private citizen, especially one so advanced in years, are likely, one would think, to lessen the existing *entente cordiale* between the two nations; but still smaller matters have before now converted two friends into bitter enemies. Does Mr. de Lesseps desire this? If not, why does he act and speak as England's enemy? As a general rule, the "irresponsible" sayings of popular leaders may be traced to the fountain heads of diplomacy. General Skobeleff's inflammatory anti-German speeches are instances in point. Then there was a clear object to gain. Russia wanted to elicit the real measure of French hatred to the Teuton, and to learn how far France could be counted upon as an ally in the attempt to crush Germany. Now the motive is utterly enveloped. Out of common prudence, it seems to us that France should stand by the English alliance; at all events, while any shreds of it hold together. She has everything to gain and little to lose by a friendship with this country, though, perhaps, we should be better off by a close German alliance. By his excessive patriotism, which certainly borders on madness, if it is not so in good truth, Mr. de Lesseps is injuring his native country. Still, what can be expected of a politician who quite lately claimed for France the honour of having civilised Egypt? Anyway, the French Government will do well to officially repudiate his actions. England has no aggressive or selfish designs in Egypt, and this fact cannot be too much enforced upon the minds of all jealous rivals; nevertheless, the nation is united in the determination to safeguard its road to India, wherein, as has been justly remarked by a great French writer, lies England's vulnerable heel. Ruling by the sword 250,000,000 half-treacherous Asiatics, the possession of the quickest road to the East is simply part and parcel of our existence. At present the Suez Canal is that shortest highway; and, by right of necessity, it belongs chiefly to ourselves. English interests are paramount, notwithstanding the Canal was the inspiration of French genius; and this supremacy was acknowledged by no one more willingly than by M. de Lesseps himself—when appealing to British capitalists for funds. *Tempora mutantur*.

HENRY MCNEFF, fireman, and Peter Berry, scaman, both of the steamship *Clifton*, for being drunk and disorderly were fined one Mexican each by Captain Thomsett, and sent on board their ship to be taken care of, and have the coin anted up for them. The above is the proper method of dealing with drunken sailors.

ANOTHER curious dispute, says a home contemporary, affecting the relations of directors and shareholders has just been settled in the Court of Appeal, the Master of the Rolls and Lords Justices Brett and Cotton confirming a decision given by Vice-Chancellor Bacon to the effect that for the directors of a company to distribute to the shareholders a portion of its capital under the name of "dividends" when no profit is being made, constitutes a breach of trust, and leaves the directors liable to the creditors of the company. It is further declared that no reduction of the capital of a Liability Company is valid, even if sanctioned by a general meeting of the shareholders, without the consent of the Court obtained through the machinery of the Act of 1867.

THERE was litigation about a title to pigs, the pigs having run wild all summer, and the witness was a boy, a little deaf, and a little "daft." Lawyer: "Do you know plaintiff's pigs?" Witness: "Ha?" (very loud). Lawyer (raising his voice): "Do you know—plaintiff's pigs?" Witness: "Yes." Lawyer: "How long have you known them?" Witness: "Ha?" Lawyer (louder still): "How long have you known them?" Witness: "Fed 'em all last spring." Lawyer: "Were they all about of a size?" Witness: "Ha?" Lawyer (rises to his feet petulantly, and shakes his forefinger, at the conclusion of each word, at witness): "Were they—all—about—of—a—size?" Witness: "Some of 'em wot, and some of 'em wotn't!" Great explosion in court-house; lawyer magnetised and witness staring vacantly around.

We should be glad to publish "Canoeists'" letter if there were any likelihood of its proving of the slightest interest to anybody save the writer. But there isn't. Our paragraph the other day referring to the Canoe Club was not intended in any way to discourage the pastime, but rather the contrary. As we then stated, if a dozen young fellows, who are fond of canoeing, choose to form themselves into an association or brotherhood to give zest to this recreation, they are perfectly justified in so doing, and it certainly is no business of ours. But when they strive their hardest to make themselves the laughing stock of the colony by electing commodores, captains, and a host of high dignitaries, and otherwise buslesqueing sport; and finish up by courting publicity for their ridiculous proceedings through the columns of the newspaper press, it is surely high time to bring them to their bearings with a round turn. And we did so. We wish the Canoe Club and its members every possible success, and we are quite certain that their enjoyment of what is an interesting and healthful recreation will prove none the less so when divested of the childish paraphernalia to which we have alluded. Canoeing is interesting alone to participants in the pastime; it has no interest whatever for the outside public. We trust "Canoeists" is quite satisfied with this second expression of our opinion.

THERE has been a good deal of excitement in various circles throughout the Colony during the last two days owing to an absurd rumour, emanating from Chinese sources, to the effect that the Chartered Mercantile Bank was in "Queer Street," had in fact suspended, or was about to suspend payment. Of course Europeans quickly discovered that the report was a mere *canard*; but the Chinese mind was not so easily satisfied, and we know of some instances in which native tradesmen positively refused to accept the notes of this bank as a legal tender. Naturally there was some reason for the "cacare"; but it was a perfectly simple one, and it could possibly have got magnified into a report affecting the credit of such a substantial concern as the Chartered Mercantile Bank seems quite inexplicable. It appears that a bill of exchange for \$1,350 from Saigon, payable on demand, was presented at the bank the other day. As the endorsement on the bill did not correspond with the name of the person to whom it was made payable, the comptroller very properly declined to undertake the responsibility of paying, and his action was supported by the accountant, and also by the acting manager. The error was no doubt a very simple one, but banking rules are very strict, and must be rigidly adhered to. However, the comptroller was quite willing to advance the money, as the Chinaman said it was an urgent matter, if sufficient guarantees were forthcoming, until advice were received from Saigon. This proposal did not lead to satisfactory results, and the Chinaman would seem to have immediately made public that he had a bill of exchange on the Chartered Mercantile Bank, of which payment had been refused. And so the rumour spread that the bank was either insolvent, or unsafe. Of course telegraphic communication with Saigon quickly cleared up the error about the bill of exchange, and it was duly paid this morning. There has also been some talk about the bank refusing to cash their own notes at par; but as the notes in question were Singapore ones the only difficulty was one of exchange. The Chinese are indeed a strange and suspicious race of traders. The idea of the Chartered Mercantile Bank putting up the shutters for the magnificent sum of \$1,350 is too ludicrous for anybody but Celestials.

An English girl, at a school examination, being asked to name the books of the Old Testament replied: "Devotional, Exeter, Licens, Numbers, Astronomy, Jupiter, Jumbo, Ruth."

"What would you do if you were I and I were you?" tenderly inquired a young swell of his lady friend as he escorted her home from church. "Well," said she, "if I were you—I should throw away that vile cigarette, cut up my cane and never write anything. Didn't you hear about his 'marching through Georgia'?" "She—O, I remember now, but I always get these two men confused."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

SIR,—Can you, or any of your readers, be good enough to inform me, why Richard Brown, described as a doctor of medicine, was fined \$5 or 14 days' imprisonment, on the 28th September for being drunk in the Streets?

The man, according to reports in the local journals, was picked up while lying drunk in a gutter in this Colony.

He was charged on the 7th instant, but was sent to gaol, or kept from time to time, until the 28th instant when he was sentenced to pay the fine before mentioned.

A felon of the deepest dye could not have been treated with greater severity!

A man for simply being drunk is kept in gaol, and his case remanded from time to time at the whim of a magistrate; the prisoner admitting the offence, if there is one (?) and this in an English Colony. Oh, cruel justice!!!

The law (Imperial) states that a man can only be fined for drunkenness; cases, however on appeal to the highest authorities in England have been reversed in which a man was convicted of simply being drunk in the streets—inability of taking care of one's person, however, was, I believe, brought within the meaning of "nuisance." Now, I am not an advocate of Dr. Richard Brown's; but I am at the same time one of justice; and if in a common case in which a man is brought before the bench for an offence (drunkenness presumably being one of them) he is to be punished having no regard to statutes, and being left only at the discretion of the judge or magistrate, I think that the sooner we petition for competent judges to sit in our Police Courts and administer the law as laid down by the law books the better for innocent (of crime) men.

Yours very truly,

SINA-QUA-NON.

Hongkong, 29th September, 1882.

## MACAO.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

MACAO, 27th Sept., 1882.

Another outrage was perpetrated a couple of days ago by the Chinese Customs cruisers, in the vicinity of the Portuguese harbour of Colowan. Vong-can is a little village within rifle shot of Colowan, and like that place, tributary to Macao. A few Portuguese were out shooting in the neighbourhood of the place, when they were fired at by the Chinese Customs' launch. It is said the shots were so well aimed that the hunters very narrowly escaped from being hunted down. On arriving at Macao they reported the affray to the proper quarters, and it is said another official despatch has been made to the Canton authorities, demanding satisfaction.

These repeated encroachments of the Chinese Customs upon Portuguese territory, and in Portuguese waters, are giving rise to very unfavourable comments. We have on the one side, the Chinese asserting what they affirm are their rights with an armed occupation of the frontier, and outraging all international laws by recklessly firing at Portuguese subjects in their own waters; and on the other, the Portuguese authority arming itself with diplomacy and trusting everything to it. The results are palpable. The policy of the Canton Customs is of the *primi occupantis* stamp, while Portugal is philosophizing over the divine origin of right and law. What prospects of commerce can this crippled colony boast of, when its port is only free by name; when its harbour is a mud-bank, and its land and sea approaches are strongly guarded by the Chinese Imperial Customs Collectors?

Mr. A. Bastos, Jr., (on the Future of Macao) maintained, in 1873 that Macao would be prosperous by the re-introduction of the Chinese Hoppo Delegation. Would that gentleman stand up to his assertion in the presence of current events? Can there be trade, when such restrictive measures are levelled at its destruction? It is said by some, that the Portuguese Government is quite right in allowing a free course to the cruisers, on the same principle that prompt the English at Gibraltar to let the Spanish Customs cruisers and guards do their duty beyond certain bounds. This is a rather far-fetched comparison. We do not hear, however, of serious complications having arisen between the Spaniards and the English on the subject of the Customs regulations of the former disturbing the trade or the peace of the inhabitants of Gibraltar. The true comparison should be drawn from a closer point—Hongkong; and it is—crushing. The Chinese Customs Stations around Hongkong are at a respectable distance; say at about five miles from the colony, while at Macao they are within one mile from the inner harbour; nay, the cruisers are generally anchored at a stone's throw from the Barra fort, and often almost alongside the Portuguese gunboat *Tamaga*. The river harbour is divided into two longitudinal sections in its course, and the Chinese cruisers are allowed to assert their rights so close to the shore that it is a shame to style this a free port.

The question then, is how is that revival of Chinese trade, so much boasted of by the Colonial Secretary in his speech on the opening of the Municipal Exhibition of produce and manufactures on the 5th February, to be reconciled with the coercive and restrictive measures imposed by the Canton authorities around Macao, and tolerated by the Portuguese to such an alarming extent? Again, how is the Government to face and settle any conflict that may arise from the close proximity of these two elements so much opposed to each other?

A conversation overheard the other day.—"Did Sheridan or Knowles write 'The School for Scandal'?" "He—Why, Knowles, of course. Sheridan was a general in the army; you know him; never wrote anything. Didn't you hear about his 'marching through Georgia'?" "She—O, I remember now, but I always get these two men confused."







